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Subject: Wrong Settlement for Microsoft

Sir or Madame:

This is an outrage!

You have probably heard about the proposed settlement with Microsoft in the antitrust case. The settlement essentially says that Microsoft must spend about \$1 billion in putting refurbished computers and Microsoft software into the nations poorest schools.

The courts have ruled that Microsoft broke the law and should be punished. Is this punishment? Of course not! The \$1 billion Microsoft must spend is *retail* value. How much does it cost to press some CDs with MS software compared to the retail value? So, the cost associated with the settlement is very low.

The biggest blunder is that the states that may agree to this settlement are helping Microsoft to extend their monopoly. The effect of having the MS operating system in schools extends far beyond those schools, so the settlement is, in fact, a big marketing ploy by MS. Do NOT agree to this settlement. This is the biggest PR coup that Microsoft could hope for and unfair to the computing public.

How about a punishment that actually punishes the wrong doer?!!!

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